

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: HIGH RATE OF TURNOVER ON UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. ONE WESTERN NEWSMAN HAS POINTED OUT TO US THAT CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE CP CENTRAL COMMITTEES IN THE UKRAINE, KAZAKHSTAN, AND GEORGIA. OUR CHECK OF THE SITUATION IN THE UKRAINE CORROBORATES THIS RUMOR. THE LARGE TURNOVER THERE APPARENTLY REFLECTS UKRAINIAN PARTY BOSS SHCHERBITSKY'S EFFORTS TO REPLACE FORMER FIRST SECRETARY SHELEST'S SUPPORTERS WITH HIS OWN FOLLOWERS. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL TURNOVER IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. ALMOST 41PC OF THE COMMITTEE'S 142 MEMBERS WERE NOT REELECTED. MOREOVER, THE COMMITTEE INSTALLED AT THE RECENTLY COMPLETED UKRAINIAN CONGRESS IS CONSIDERABLY LARGER THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, HAVING 183 MEMBERS WHILE THE PREVIOUS CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD ONLY 142. THE EFFECT OF NOT REELECTING 58 MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ENLARGING THE NEW COMMITTEE BY 41 MEMBERS HAS BEEN TO ADD 99 NEW MEMBERS TO THE UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE; 54PC OF THE NEW UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE ARE NEW MEMBERS. IT IS STRIKING THAT ONLY 19 OF 99 NEW MEMBERS HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF THE

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UKRAINIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE LACK THE RESOURCES TO CHECK THE RATE OF
TURNOVER IN PREVIOUS UKRAINIAN CC CELECTIONS, WE FEEL CON-
FIDENT THAT THE CURRENT RATE IS MUCH HIGHER. IT APPERS
THAT THESE CHANGES REFLECT PRIMARILY LOCAL POLITICS IN THE
UKRAINE, WITH THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CONGRESS REPRESENTING
SHCHERBITSKY'S FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO CLEANSE THE UKRAINIAN
PARTY OF SUPPORTERS IDENTIFIED WITH SHELEST. IN ANY CASE,
WE WOULD WELCOME WASHINGTON COMMENT ONTHIS PHENOMENON.
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